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mitis, Ceterach, Hymenophyllum tunbridgense, Lycopodium denticulatum, Polypodium vulgare, and *Niphobolus chinensis: Oxalis corniculata,* and *Jungermannia asplenifolia,* with four or five species of mosses, are likewise growing in the same box. Many other plants which delight in humid situations, and which I had previously attempted in vain to grow in town, succeed equally well under this plan of treatment, such as the double-flowered *Anemone nemorosa, Listera, Nidus avis,* &c.; and I feel well convinced that the deteriorating influence of town air depends more upon mechanical than upon chemical causes.

I am, Sir, &c.

R. W. Solly, Esq. N. B. Ward.

No. III.

Letter addressed to R. H. Solly, Esq., from H. Bowerbank, Esq., respecting his method of obtaining Specimens of Wood for exhibition and examination in the Microscope.

19 *Critchill Place,*
Sir, 8*th April,* 1834.

In compliance with your request, I send you my little machine for cutting sections of wood for microscopic objects.

It will be seen to consist simply of a table having a triangular receptacle, through the bottom of which a micrometer-screw, of about fifteen turns to the inch, works, for the purpose of elevating the carrying-box, in which the wood to be cut must be firmly fixed, by means of the screw passing through the curved front.

The woods to be cut should not be operated upon either in their green or dried state, but should be first prepared in the following manner: —

If it be a green wood, cut it into convenient lengths, and immerse it in strong spirit of wine for a few days; then change the spirit, and again immerse it for a few days or a week, for the purpose of extracting the whole of the resinous matter. After which, let it soak for a week or ten days in a sufficient quantity of water to deprive it of the whole of its gummy matter. It should then be stored away in weak spirit and water for use.

If the wood to be cut be dry, it should be fully expanded in water before it is immersed in spirit of wine, and then proceed with it as for green wood.

In cutting, the piece to be operated upon should not project more than one-eighth of an inch above the carrying-box; and previous to making each cut, the surface should be moistened with spirit of wine. This facilitates the operation, and prevents the slice taken off from curling up.

The instrument used to cut with is a razor, with the side which is to be next the machine ground flat. I have found the slices made by cutting from you with a forward and diagonal motion at the same time the best. In conclusion, I should observe that no wood which has been once dry makes such good cuttings as that prepared from the green state.

I am, Sir, &c.

R. W. Solly, Esq. H. Bowerbank.